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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Identical letters dated 9 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit the following observations and reservations on the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The Republic of the Sudan underscores that the content of the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" should be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the national legislation and development priorities of countries, as well as spiritual, cultural and moral values, and in line with universally recognized and agreed human rights principles.

In paragraph 19 of the declaration and in target 10.2, we do not view the phrase "other status" as applying to sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

As for "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as mentioned in target 3.7, they should be age appropriate, and the Republic of the Sudan strongly reaffirms its position that such a reference may be defined to include "comprehensive sexuality education". The Republic of the Sudan further reaffirms that the "prior right" of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected. The use of the term "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services cannot imply any right of young children or adolescents to access any service without regard for parental responsibility, or the obligation to provide them with information and services that are neither lawful nor acceptable at the national level.

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With respect to target 5.4, the Republic of the Sudan understands the term "within the household" only as defined in reference to "the family". The family, founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

The Republic of the Sudan also would like to re-express its reservation on target 5.6, which reads: "Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences". The Republic of the Sudan made a reservation on the above-mentioned target at the time that the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals was adopted.

The Republic of the Sudan wishes to express its reservation on all terms and all possible interpretations in the document that are in contravention of its national laws. Target 5.6 and/or any other provision in the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", their implementation or interpretation shall in no way refer to or imply the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, or abortion.

The Republic of the Sudan expressed its understanding that the word "gender" throughout the document refers only to "male" and "female".

The use of the term "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" and related terms throughout the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" does not create or presume the existence of a "right to abortion".

Therefore, the Republic of the Sudan will not accept at any point any policies, monitoring, evaluation or reporting on any provision in the document which will include or tend to include, explicitly or implicitly, the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, or abortion.

In the same vein, the Republic of the Sudan stresses that indicators for tracking progress on the agreed goals and targets should not invade national policy space or contradict national priorities on the above concepts, in accordance with Article II of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Republic of the Sudan is of the view that the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and all international instruments relating to human rights and international law reflected therein are not intended to standardize the cultural values of peoples around the globe. Thus, the Republic of the Sudan will implement and interpret the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" in full accordance with its national legislation as well as the moral, cultural and religious values and convictions of Sudanese society and in line with universally recognized and agreed human rights principles.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 117.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**